Boycott Colorado, Inc. • P.O. Box 300158 Denver, Colorado 80203-0158 • 303 777-0560

June 11, 1993

TO: GROUND ZERO

FROM: TERRY SCHLEDER, BOYCOTT COLORADO

As I travel around the country speaking to groups about Amendment 2 and the Boycott, I have been made more and more aware of its national strategic importance. When we originally chose to support the boycott, we saw it as a way to state our opposition and objection to Amendment 2 and as a way that this message could be sent from across America. The growing success of this is measured not only in the dollars not coming to Colorado (an amount exceeding the amount not spent in Arizona many times over for the same time period) but, more importantly, in the message that has been sent and is being received.

Business leaders across the state are beginning to grumble and groan and to seek ways of reversing Amendment 2. Much of that which impels them is the short and long term-effect of The Boycott. They continue to need the reminder of America's view. Individuals, continually pelted with statements of boycott, are beginning to look inward and to question the advisability and fairness of Amendment 2 (and to question why so many important people and companies object to it), even though many are constrained not to say so by peer pressure. They continue to need to be reminded of America's view.

Across America, business and political leaders are being prompted to take strong stands against their own Amendment 2's rather than to sit back and do little. In Michigan, the conservative governor urged resistance to an Amendment 2 there, citing the boycott in Colorado and the economic impact an amendment 2 would have on Michigan. The same has been done in Idaho, Florida, Washington, Iowa, Wisconsin, Oregon, etc.

National leadership has remained in support of the boycott. Even Torie Osborn, who, when new on the national scene suggested it might be time to reconsider the boycott, has recently re-endorsed it.

Time and time again, GLBT leadership across America, involved in their own fights, express to me their deep appreciation for the fight being waged in Colorado and for the major tool the boycott gives them in fighting the Right in their states. In fact, I am constantly being asked about Ground Zero and its own bravery in the face of the overwhelming odds stacked against it. The success of Ground Zero's message is heard across America where its members are almost regarded as folk heroes.

I was compelled to send this letter to you with the attached documents because I know that much of the news does not get to you in your local newspaper. Much is left out of Denver's paper also. I urge you to read the editorial enclosed that was in the Denver Post if you want a remarkably clear view of what the Boycott is all about.

Keep up the Good Work!!!

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

February 16, 1993

Henry D. Messer, M.D., FACS

Dear Dr. Messer:

It was a pleasure to talk briefly with you last month during the "Ask the Governor" program. I appreciate your letter following up on our conversation.

I believe a Colorado-type amendment would have a negative impact if adopted in Michigan. Such an amendment could lead to tourists and convention planners boycotting our state, which would obviously have an adverse effect on our economy. Michigan does not need an amendment of this nature.

Thank you for your interest in my position on this topic.

Sincerely,

John Engler
Governor

JE:dw

Denver Post
Post 5/19/93 7B

Amendment 2: no easy way out

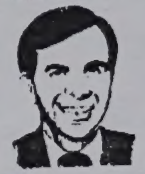
I USED to think that Amendment 2 would cease to be a Colorado-only problem after the next election cycle.

It seemed obvious that other states would adopt Amendment 2-style laws at their 1994 elections, and then they'd have to share the scorn that's been heaped on Colorado.

Before long, even more states would do the same thing — against the best advice of their fair-minded opinion leaders — and by then everyone would have forgotten that Colorado was the first to fall prey to baseless and mean-spirited molestation of its constitution.

Now I'm not so sure.

When the American Association for the Advancement of Science canceled its 1999 convention in Denver, it was strong evidence that the boycott is having enough of an impact that other states won't dare fall into the same trap.



FRED BROWN

The AAAS is about as objective as an organization can get. It's true that science is getting more political as life and ambition get more complicated, but this is an organization rooted in the scientific method.

If scientists can be driven away by gay activists, then any group large enough to be lobbied is susceptible.

The boycott doesn't seem to be having much effect on individual decisions. Winter tourism was up, and summer tourism — what with the pope and all — threatens to break all records.

But the largely empty Colorado Convention Center continues to be largely empty. Even before Amendment 2, it was difficult finding enough conventions to fill that cavernous space. Now, with the cancellations — and, more important, the mostly unreported executive committee and governing board decisions to drop Denver from the list of potential national meeting sites — it's beginning to look like a real white elephant.

The larger the organization, and the more attractive it is as a convention client, then the easier it is to find some influential member willing to raise an ozone-damaging stink if the group even thinks about going to Denver.

Denver's and Colorado's punishment can't be ignored in the rest of the country. Certainly convention planners and professionals in the out-of-town meeting business are keenly aware of it.

That means politicians and business owners and other highly placed people in other states will fight hard — harder than their Colorado counterparts did — to keep the same thing from happening to their states.

Even ordinary people who might have been tempted to vote against "special rights," the highly successful and thoroughly misleading slogan of the Colorado campaign, will think twice about opening themselves up to the kind of reverse bias and mindless political correctness that have been visited on Colorado.

The ongoing national debate over gays in the military — and, even if it's settled, there will be something else to follow that one — will keep popular attention focussed on gay rights. The anti-gay forces won't be able to sneak up on other states the way they snuck up on Colorado.

Oh, one or two especially unenlightened states might join Colorado in passing anti-gay-rights laws. But there won't be enough of them to deflect the outrage directed our way.

It's beginning to look as though the only way for Colorado to get out of its dilemma is for the state Supreme Court to rule that Amendment 2 violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. Or, failing that, for citizens to have second thoughts about what they did last November and change the law in 1994.

If Coloradans change their minds about a voter-approved constitutional amendment, it will be a historic first. And if the courts throw out the amendment, there will be howls of protest that seven stiffs in black robes have no right to go against the will of the majority.

There's simply no easy way out.

Fred Brown, an associate editor and political editor of The Denver Post, writes a weekly column.

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